

The Parchment

Monthly Newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC

June 2016

FACEBOOK: FCCStJoseph
WEBSITE: www.fccstjoseph.org

Mark Your Calendar

6.5
Graduation Sunday with
Communion at 9:55 AM!

6.7
Missions Board Meeting

6.11
50's Sock Hop Dance

6.14
Trustees Meeting

6.15
Women's Fellowship
Council Meeting

6.28
Council Meeting

Greetings from Dr. Bob

Here We Go

The summer brings many changes for everyone. If you have school-age children, school's out and that changes everything. Even you if you don't, the school year coupled with lovely Michigan summers and vacation time influences so much of what we do.

The church is always affected. Some think the church shifts into "SLOW" mode during the summer, but that's hardly the case. Although the indicators might not be easy to see, we keep things hopping all the way to September, when Round Up Sunday pushes the button on Christian Education again.

What we are currently working on, step by step, was previewed at the recent after-worship Family Matters lunch in late April. The short version:

A Sanctuary project to improve versatility, audio, video, lighting and the Rose window.

Refreshing the CE rooms when the Logan's Autism Learning Center moves out in September after 3 ½ years. This includes the Youth Room and Nursery/Preschool rooms. Maintenance on the steeple and parking lot.

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Church Rummage Sale Thanks to Everyone

Dr. Bill Bock

The Rummage Sale Committee would like to thank all of you for your generous participation in our spring sale. We had the biggest sale EVER! When we opened the door at noon, 393 people were in line waiting to get in and the previous high was 310 and most sales have been in the mid 200s. **This was our greatest income at \$18,100.**

We celebrate the many volunteers that gave of their time and energy at the Spring Rummage Sale. The following members were the winners of the drawings:

1st Place: Perry Ballard (\$35 gift certificate to Silver Beach Pizza)

2nd Place: Pat Smith (gift certificate for a manicure)

3rd Place: Walt Waldenmaier (won the Pink Flamingo!)

Our grateful appreciation is given to each of you and again, a big THANK YOU!! We'll see you at the fall sale in October.

Greetings from Dr. Bob continued ...

A new Christian education initiative that is growing out of our use of Orange curriculum, supercharged by a major conference attended by CE staff, Paul Flyger, and me.

And of course you know that shortly after you read this I'll be out of town for the summer. You'll be served well by Rev. David Wheeler. At the risk of repeating a few things you might have already heard, David was the Associate Minister in our church from 1975 to 1979, when Rev. Dr. George Fisk was the Senior Minister. He subsequently served churches in Elmhurst IL and Lorraine OH before going to First Congregational UCC in Rochester, MI, from which he retired in 2013. He and his wife Karen have been active in the UCC for a long time, he as a one-time Moderator, and she still the Treasurer, of the Michigan Conference. Their son's family lives in Grand Rapids, so they have recently relocated to that area. Their daughter's family is in Nashville TN, and in fact as I write this they are returning from a Tennessee visit.

David will be here for Sunday worship, monthly Board meetings, office administration, and of course for Pastoral Care, coming into town Saturday afternoons and leaving again early Wednesdays. Please save this contact information for him: (248) 895-9219, revdave48@gmail.com.

I'm looking forward to a fruitful summer Sabbatical full of reading, planning, thinking, and keeping up with grandkids. I know you will be in capable hands, and you will provide capable hands, throughout this busy time.

Lots of peace to you,

Dr. Bob

Worship Time Changes June 5

Worship begins at 9:55 am each Sunday beginning June 5, the first Sunday in June for the summer months.

Mark Your Summer Calendar

June 11 Sock Hop 4 Chimes Fundraiser Dance
7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall with PastTime

July 31-Aug 4 Vacation Bible School

Aug 5-7 30-hour Famine

Aug 7 Church Picnic
Front Side Lawn

Aug 14 Lake Jazz Effect Big Band Concert
7:00 PM, Front Lawn

Sept 11 Round-Up Sunday

Matthew 28:5

*But the angel answered and
said to the women,
“Do not be afraid, for I
know that you seek Jesus
who was crucified.”*

News from the Library

Caryl, Nancy & Patty

With additions being donated to the library before our May rummage, we reviewed the books, kept some and allowed others to be sold. We continue to work with Christian Education to add titles that are helpful for children, youth and parents.

The section “titles” continue to be changed to address the books on the shelves. One new section includes “local history” including a book that is written by Margaret & Fredrick Upton. If you check out the youth/children section there are new titles that girls might be interested in reading.

By the end of June we hope to have the “temporary” signage replaced. Please browse new additions to the fiction and biography sections, too. We appreciate your comments and suggestions.



CONTACT information



Please be sure and notify the church office if any of your contact information has recently changed. (983-5519 or office@fccstjoseph.org)

VBS 2016! WALK THIS WAY!

Kelly Yeager

Mark your calendars! VBS 2016 is scheduled for Sunday, July 31 through Thursday, August 4.

Join the kids on a journey as they learn how to:

LISTEN to God

TALK to God



and even SHARE THEIR FAITH.

We'll hit the road with Paul and ask the same questions he asked and make some incredible discoveries along the way. Grab your gear, check your GPS and get ready to WALK THIS WAY!



50s Sock Hop Fundraiser Dance

Paul Flyger

The Handbell Choirs invite you and your friends to the **50s Sock Hop Dance** featuring Nurse Jan and the **PastTime** band as the entertainment for a fun summer night of music, soft drinks and appetizers on Saturday, June 11 from 7 - 9 p.m.

Guest lighting specialist, Derrick Bassett is doing special effects for the band that you won't want to miss! There will also be an outdoor tent for socializing.

Tickets are available now and are \$40 per couple and \$25 for one. This is a fundraiser for 5 octaves of new Malmark Handchimes that will match our 5th octave of Malmark Handbells. Call or stop by the church office to get your tickets or get them after church on Sunday May 29 or June 5 so we have an idea of how much food to prepare.

Tune in to 94.9 WSJM radio on Monday, May 30 between 5:30 - 6:00 PM to hear Nurse Jan and Susan Dietrich-Reed talk about this event with Brenda Layne on the show, "In the Spotlight."

Summer Bells

Anyone interested in handbells is invited to join Summer Bells. This is a great way to get started with bells with very little pressure for performance. We also want experienced ringers as well.

As a new format, we will have two ringers per position. Rehearsals will be Thursdays at 5:30 PM beginning on June 16.

50's Sock Hop 4 Chimes

featuring PastTime

Dedicated to preserving early Rock 'N Roll

Saturday, June 11, 7 – 9 PM

Basement Stage & Outdoor Patio

A fundraiser dance for handchimes



Soft drinks &
appetizers included.

Call now for tickets!
269-983-5519 or
office@fccstjoseph.org

First Congregational Church UCC

2001 Niles Avenue, St. Joseph

Limited tickets: \$40/2 or \$25/1 – call now.

PastTime generously supports this fundraiser to purchase 61 Malmark handchimes that will expand our range and match our 5th octave of Malmark handbells.

A Note from Christian Education Staff

Kelly Yeager

What a fun year we had with all of the kids! It was a year of new beginnings with new staff, a great new curriculum, and new volunteer schedules. Most of it worked, a little of it didn't, but we learned A LOT and in looking forward there are more great things to come! We believe that what we do with our kids in this church affects those outside our church as well. Together we are creating a ripple that has no end.

Our strategy is to connect kids to leaders who believe in their potential, change how they see the world and their future, and help them experience something they will never forget. To continue our momentum, we are planning a large-group style Sunday school through the summer for kids that have completed Young 5's through 5th grade. If you'd like to help as a leader or Safe Church volunteer, watch your email for a sign-up sheet. **No more month-long commitment!**

Our goal is to equip our kids to 'Be the Church'. We are here to

- Help our kids see God for who he is,
- Help kids see themselves the way God does,
- So that kids can love others the way He does.

Please consider volunteering to be an example of Jesus to our kids!

Thank you!

The CE Staff

Alison Achromowicz, Kelly Yeager, Michael Milnickel, and Shannon Milnickel

Caring and Sharing in Urzhum Russia!

Judy Bertsch



The Russian Mission Group has returned and are so happy to report that the children at the orphanage in Urzhum are thriving! Because of your caring and support, we were able to spread the love of Christ as we renewed friendships and made new ones with children, caretakers and in the community of Urzhum. There were so many priceless moments with the children and we hope to share them with you in July. Plans are in the making for the 4th Taste of Russia, where we will share pictures and video and food. Stay tuned.



June Birthdays

Sally Grumbine	01
David Houser	02
Raymond Mitchell	06
Ian Paul	06
Will Armstrong	10
Alison Achramowicz	11
Todd Christy	11
Cynthia Miller	12
Betsy Hammond	16
Anne Brockway	17
Bobbie Harder	17
Kelly Yeager	17
Kay Welch	20
Carol Drews	23
AJ Terry	23
Zachary Ort	27
Joyce Vance	27
Sarah Yircott	30

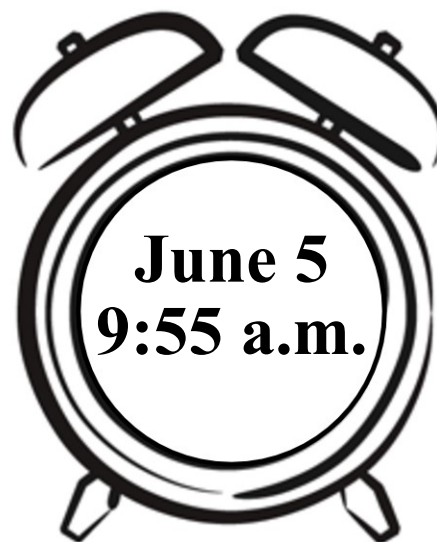
Women's Bible Study: Summer Schedule

Patty Nordberg

At this time, no plans have been set. We usually meet once in June, July and August with a leader for the Bible study, a host house for the meeting and someone to supply refreshments. We will be making final plans at the end of May, so please watch for updates on the website and in the Sunday bulletins. All women of the church and friends are welcome to join. Any questions? Contact me at 429-7297 or pnordberg@comcast.net.

Summer Worship Schedule

Remember that summer worship services begin on June 5 with a start time of 9:55 a.m. This schedule applies to the months of June, July and August.



Church Women United

Patty Nordberg

May Friendship Day: Finding Grace at the Table

CWU is a Christian women's organization founded in 1941. It is "radically, culturally and theologically inclusive," "impassioned by the Holy Spirit to act on behalf of women and children throughout the world."

Join us on Friday, June 3 for this great program at Stevensville United Methodist Church. The board meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. followed by Bible study at 11:00 a.m. led by the delightful and inspiring Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Pastor of First Presbyterian church. Lunch is served at noon and Pastor Minnie Autry of Union Memorial A.M.E. Church will speak at 1:00 p.m.

From Nurse Jan

Safe Sleep Practices

At our April staff meeting, the Parish & Senior Nurses had a presentation at the Berrien County Health Department regarding safe sleep for infants. It was entitled Protect Me While I Sleep.

Too many babies in Berrien County die before their first birthday due to suffocation or asphyxiation from being placed in an unsafe sleep environment. These deaths are 100% preventable. My desire is for all of our church's parents, grandparents, caregivers and babysitters, be exposed to the correct practices and protocol. I have several pamphlets relating to this subject matter available in my office, and all are welcome to stop by and pick one up.

If there is an interest in organizing a program for grandparents or parents here at First Congregational, I'll be happy to get the ball rolling. Please contact me for scheduling this important educational forum. It's provided free from the Berrien County Health Department just for the asking!

50's Sock Hop 4 Chimes Event

June 11th is fast approaching. In case you've missed this news, Paul Flyer and the various handbell choirs are having a fundraiser on that date, to purchase 61 Malmark hand chimes that will expand the range and match our 5th octave of Malmark handbells. Tickets are now available at the church office and it is imperative that there is an accurate head count prior to the event.

My band PastTime is the featured entertainment. Even if you don't plan to get on your boogie shoes, just come to

watch and enjoy the fellowship of the community and your church friends. As we all know, Paul gives it his all in the planning and organization of his events. The decorations are being obtained and prepared and you'll just have to wait and see how he transforms the Fellowship Hall back to the 50's.

"Be There or Be Square" and help Paul and the bells raise the funds to expand their handchimes. You'll benefit from that every time they play for you.

Heartfelt Thanks

Heartfelt thanks go out to all the volunteers from First Congregational who participated in Dr. Braman's thespian troop that entertained the Parish and Senior Nurses from Lakeland. We hosted our monthly staff meeting last month on May 18th. The members of the troop were as follows: Dr. Bob Braman, Paul Flyer, Diana Seaman, A.J. Jaeger-Heiden, Betty Westmass, JoAnn Muldoon, Beth Kenagy, Caryl Meister, Pat Norton and Jean Bloomquist.

Special praises and adulation to Beth Kenagy for helping me host "the girls" by providing a delicious breakfast buffet and to Judy Hoffman who prepared some special gifts for each nurse during her time away from the office.



WHAT OUR CHURCH IS ABOUT

Our Vision

As believers in Jesus Christ, we will be a church of vibrant Christians.

Our Mission

We welcome people to faith in Jesus Christ to:
Discover God
Equip one another for life
Reach inward and outward to serve

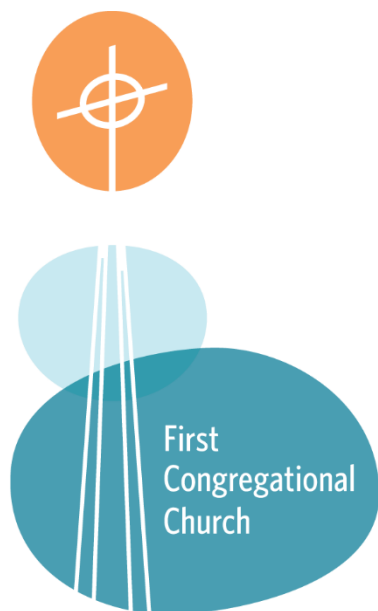
The Invitation to Discipleship from Jesus Christ

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

We grow as disciples through these 6 practices:

- Daily Prayer
- Bible Reading
- Weekly Worship
- Generous Giving
- Selfless Serving
- Spiritual Friendships



SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Robert Braman

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

September thru May

9:15 a.m. Christian Discipleship

9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir

10:25 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Christian Education classes

June, July, and August

9:55 a.m. Worship

Childcare available during worship.

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT

September thru April

4:00 p.m. Jubilate Ringers

5:15 p.m. Joyful Praise Ringers

5:45 p.m. Church Family Dinner

6:30 p.m. Kids Connection
Middle High Youth Group

6:30 p.m. Dr. Bob's Class

THURSDAY NIGHT

5:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

OFFICE HOURS

Open: Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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